

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's further Office Action of October 30, 2008 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claims 1 and 9 are amended to specify that the non-inverse and inverse bit-values are tested by combining the corresponding bits of the secret information and the inverse-string. Support for this amendment can be found at paragraphs [8039]-[8052] of the present specification; and

dependent claims 2-8 and 10-17 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application.

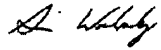
Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claims 1 and 9, and claims 2-8 and 10-17 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by newly cited Kikukawa et al. (US 5,835,424) in view of previously cited Trimberger, because Kikukawa specifically discloses that the fuse elements are broken so that non-corresponding bits of the signals AY0-AY3 and XAY0-XAY3 can be supplied to the transistors (see col. 6, lines 37-62 and Fig. 6) and Trimberger specifically discloses that the words read from the shadow DRAM are written back to the shadow DRAM (see col. 4, lines 3-45). Thus, neither Kikukawa nor Trimberger teach or suggest combining inverse and non-inverse bits to test the validity of the bit strings, as is required by the claimed invention.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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